



## **Firefighter**

Performance Task

### **Introduction**

Firefighters work very hard every day at the Fire Department. Firefighters spend some of their days practicing and preparing for emergencies, but most of their days are spent responding to important 911 emergency calls. When phone calls come in to the station, all emergency vehicles quickly leave to go to the emergency. The Fire Department is needed for many kinds of emergencies. There may be emergencies such as small kitchen fires, large building fires or even car accidents. No matter what your emergency is you can call 911.

### **Big Idea / Essential Questions**

#### **Big Idea**

- Trusted community helpers promote and teach practices that help us to stay safe and healthy.
- Safety impacts individual and community well-being.
- There are many good choices and actions (safe practices) you can use in an emergency situation.

#### **Essential Questions**

- How would you identify and choose a trusted community (adult) member to help you be healthy?
- What can I do to be safe in any environment?
- What makes your home and community a healthy place to live, play and work?

### **G.R.A.S.P.**

#### **Goal**

Your goal is to make sure that people know how to call 911 and to learn how to be safe in an emergency.

#### **Role**

In this task, you are going to learn about the role of a firefighter.

## **Audience**

Your audience are the children and families in your preschool community.

## **Situation**

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## **Products**

### **1. Pre Illustration**

#### **Suggested starting product: (for pre-assessment)**

Students are to illustrate a drawing. This drawing can be used as a formative assessment for your students. Ask each student to draw a picture of a firefighter. Upon completion of the illustrations, have a group discussion about each drawing giving each student an opportunity to explain their details and work.

### **2. 911 Number Activity**

Together as a class you may create a large template of a phone or cell phone. Teacher may also create a smaller template for each child to color or glue numbers on the phone. Together you may practice dialing 911 and/or have each child present their "dialing" to the class at group time. Students may take turns by wearing a fire hat or fireman costume to perform their "dialing" presentation. This may be a good opportunity to discuss the differences between non-emergencies and an actual emergency. It also would be very helpful to demonstrate how to call on a mobile phone as this can be a different process from a home phone. Children will be very interested in their new dialing skills and will therefore need to be reminded that dialing 911 is only for a real emergency.

### **3. Fire Exit Mural**

Firefighters want all students to know that there are steps to keeping safe while they are at school. The first step to be safe in an emergency is to know where the doors are to exit the building. Using a large piece of mural paper, draw a picture of your preschool classroom within the school building. First hang the mural up and together discuss the safest exit out in an emergency. Make sure to highlight each door and draw a clear path with a line out of the school. Talk the students through this route so that they become familiar with the path. After your discussion, you may place the mural on a lower surface, such as a low table or classroom floor. Students may use paint or crayon to enhance the mural with added special details or classroom/school features.

## 4. Firefighter Visit

On a large piece of paper, create an invitation that includes a greeting and why your students are interested in having a visit from a firefighter. After creating this invitation, you may come up with a list of questions that you will want to ask the firefighter when they visit. Contact and schedule a visit to your classroom from your local fire station. Present your questions and share class exit mural and 911 phones as an opportunity to share their knowledge. Visiting with a local firefighter helps children feel more at ease with intimidating masks and gear. Reassure children that firefighters are friendly and are there to help and rescue.

## 5. Book Club

Read some of the following suggested books together as a class. After each group reading, have a discussion about the topic. Make sure to ask questions about key ideas and details. Encourage your students to establish a personal connection with each story. Personal Connections with books and recognizing familiar concepts are important elements for a group discussion. On a large piece of poster paper or on a board, record the important information, comments and main ideas to make a class research chart. This class chart should be printed in list form or in categories for class to see. Organizing information together in your “Book Club” discussion will be a valuable activity.

1. This is the Firefighter by Laura Godwin
2. The Firefighters by Sue Whiting
3. Firefighter Mary by Ami Shipp
4. Firehouse 3: Duties of a Firefighter by Joyce Mitchell
5. Firefighters Don't! by Maria Childs
6. It's time to Call 911: What to Do in an Emergency by Smart Kids Publishing

## 6. Picture Book

Staple together four or five pieces of 3x5 paper together for each child. Have students fill the pages in with a picture or symbol that represents what they have learned about firefighters and/or fire safety. These picture books are a great way for students to practice forming their letters by making a phonetic connection to the image they create for each page.

## 7. Journal Prompt

Journal prompts are a good practice in summarizing thoughts and ideas about concepts learned. This journal prompt could be used in creating a class journal or notebook. Journal prompts offer questions and reflections to orally discuss as a speaking and listening activity.

-Prompt:

What is a firefighter and how do they help people?

## **8. Post Illustration**

### **Suggested culminating product: (for post-assessment)**

Ask students to imagine that they are a firefighter. As students imagine this role, have them draw a picture that shows some of the important things that firefighters do.

## **9. Product Fair!**

At the end of your work with this performance task, you may invite families, parents or other individuals in the school to view your class "products". This is a great way for the children to show off and perform their knowledge and new information. You may choose to display illustrations, posters, charts, books, class journal, etc. at various centers throughout your classroom and have the children take turns presenting their work to the audience.